Annual Report 2014–2015

Activities of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

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July 2015

Hon. Paula Biggar
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Biggar:

I am pleased to present you with the 2014–2015 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of the Advisory Council's activities, publications, projects, and collaborations with government and the community from April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015.

Sincerely,

Kelly Robinson, Vice-Chairperson

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Chairperson's Message

It is with overwhelming sadness that the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women reports that our Chairperson Diane Kays died March 28, 2015, after a brief illness.

Appointed to the Advisory Council in March 2011, Diane took up the role of Chairperson in August of that year. During her term as Chairperson, she devoted incredible time and energy to the Council's work, taking an active part in the life of the office and of the Council, seeing the Council through a restructuring in 2012, and maintaining a strong and respectful relationship with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty. Diane represented the Advisory Council on the province's Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council and the Victim Services Advisory Committee, offering her irreplaceable knowledge and experience to these groups.

Diane Kays grew up in Charlottetown, a first-generation Canadian of parents born in Lebanon. She was proud of her Lebanese heritage. She graduated from St. Dunstan's University and then received a Master's of Social Work at Dalhousie's Maritime School of Social Work. She spent more than 30 years in social work (in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) and eight years as a small business owner.

Her social work career focused on individual and family therapy, community development, and program development. Diane was also a Lecturer and Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University School of Social Work and worked in private practice (therapy and consulting).

Diane retired from social work in 2009 and moved home to Charlottetown, first to help care for her mother, Esma, in the last years of her life, and then to live with her beloved sister Doreen.

Throughout her career, Diane focused on issues of violence against women and children, adult survivors of childhood abuse, poverty and women, women in conflict with the law, mental health and women, and multi-service systems (analysis, development, and delivery).

Islanders will remember the special grace she brought to emceeing the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, especially her moving speech "Her Name Was Eleanor..." at that service in 2011. Her strong voice for vulnerable women and families would be missed during the May 2015 spring election.

"Our hearts are broken," says Advisory Council Executive Director Jane Ledwell. "We have lost a beacon of feminist experience and a strong voice for all Island families, but most of all we have lost a friend and counsellor." Council staff Ledwell, Michelle Jay, and Becky Tramley met with Diane weekly, sharing their accomplishments and goals with seriousness, but also with fun and laughter. "There was so much more that Diane wanted to accomplish to support women and their families in Prince Edward Island, and she had so much more to contribute," says Ledwell. "We are devastated to lose her so suddenly and so soon. We will miss her with all our hearts."

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women sends love and sympathy to Diane's family, especially her sisters Doreen and Hazel, her niece Susan and her partner David Veniot, and her great-nephew Gryffin Sam, and to all her extended family, related by blood or by choice.

Some Highlights of 2014–2015 for Chairperson Diane Kays

***Left**: Diane with Judy Clark, PEI Aboriginal Women's Association. **Left below**: With the cast of Mi'kmaq Legends. Diane was proud to build partnerships with Aboriginal women and organizations for the Purple Ribbon theme of missing and murdered Indigenous women. **Right**: At the Equality Garden Party with her friend and colleague, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty. **Below**: With Dr. Rhonda Matters, Chief Mental Health and Addictions Officer, Diane's colleague on the Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council.*

***Left above**: Diane with her sister Doreen, a nominee for A Bold Vision, at the event to reveal the Bold Visionaries from across Canada. **Right above**: Diane with members of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women at the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell's keynote address at A Bold Vision conference in Brudenell in September. **Left below**: Diane with Council staff Becky, Michelle, and Jane at a summer excursion to the Trailside Cafe in Mount Stewart.*

We will remember you and miss you, Diane. The Council will work hard every day to live up to your legacy of compassion and care for women and their families, until equality is achieved, and we all share the benefit.

Mandate & Mission

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is an arm's-length government-appointed Council.

Nine Council members are selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality and who represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

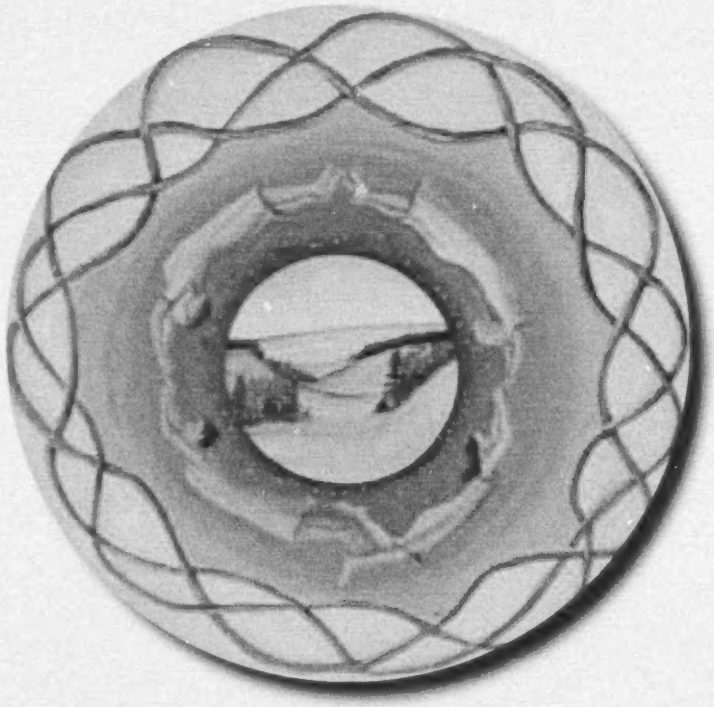
The Council believes that women's equality is the foundation for equality for all people. Women's inequality continues to influence discriminatory attitudes and actions that affect our society and culture, our politics and laws, and our economies.

Council believes that women's independent social and economic security is key to equality and to freedom from physical, emotional, and sexual violence.

The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act. This Act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

With a commitment to feminist principles and process, the PEIACSW:

- serves as an advisor to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women regarding issues facing Island women and girls and their families;
- serves as a liaison between the community and the provincial government on matters related to equality;
- works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life;
- promotes social justice for vulnerable populations, including senior women, Aboriginal women, low-income women, women of colour, Francophone women, women with disabilities, women who identify as LGBTQ, and others;
- conducts research and offers recommendations to government, collaborators and partners to promote equality;
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women and their families;
- works in collaboration with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils.



Artwork: "Seeds" by Council member Mari Basiletti.
This work was commissioned by and hangs in the waiting room of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.

Council Meetings & Strategic Planning

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year. At meetings, Council members share experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues. They discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government. They meet with government officials or community organizations or both. They invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.

Advisory Council Meetings & Highlights, 2014–2015:

- **134th meeting: May 7, 2014, Canoe Cove, PEI**
  Equality Report Card Policy Review
  Council gathered in beautiful Canoe Cove and participated in a workshop to review and reflect on government's progress on priority issues from the 2013 Equality Report Card. Council members also took part in a consultation to develop a booklet on sexual and reproductive health services in PEI.
- **135th meeting: June 11, 2014, Summerside, PEI**
  Partnering with Aboriginal Women
  Council members bade a fond farewell to Marcia Enman, who completed her five-year term as a member. Council contributed to the Department of Community Services and Seniors strategic planning in a consultation with Department staff. Judy Clark, President of the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association, was the day's special guest. She gave a moving presentation on Mi'kmaw women's past and present experiences and their strength.

Council members in Canoe Cove, May 2014.

- **136th meeting: October 22, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI**
  Women with Disabilities
  Council members welcomed new member Yvonne Deagle and guest volunteers from Canada World Youth. Council appreciated a presentation and conversation on women and disabilities with Judith Bayliss of the Council of People with Disabilities. Michelle Harris-Genge, the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat joined Council for lunch.
- **137th meeting: December 5, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI**
  Montreal Massacre Memorial
  Council participated actively in Charlottetown's memorial service for victims of the December 6, 1989, Montreal Massacre.
- **138th meeting: January 21, 2015, Charlottetown, PEI**
  Consultation on Preventing Rape & Sexual Assault
  Council members welcomed Michelle MacCallum of Women's Network to lead a consultation on preventing rape and sexual assault, serving as a focus group for the Respect project. Sexual violence was a primary focus of discussion during much of the meeting.
- **139th meeting: March 25, 2015, Summerside, PEI**
  Meetings with Min. Valerie Docherty
  Council members gathered in Summerside, where they had the opportunity to meet with Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, and present their top priorities for 2015.

Advisory Council Members

Diane Kays, Charlottetown — Chairperson

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Chairperson's term: July 29, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Diane Kays received her BA from Saint Dunstan's University (1969) and her MSW from Dalhousie University's School of Social Work (1971). Diane's career focused on "Issues of Violence Against Women and Children" and "Trauma Related to Childhood Abuse." Along with being a therapist/ counsellor, Diane also taught Social Work students, served on numerous community committees, developed and published programs related to violence against women, and has been an activist for issues related to women and their families. Diane moved back to PEI from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2002 and continued to practice until her retirement in 2009. Diane lives in Charlottetown.

Kelly Robinson, Stratford — Vice-Chairperson

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Vice-Chairperson's term: January 22, 2013, to March 1, 2016

Kelly Robinson is Program Coordinator at Community Legal Information Association (CLIA), and serves as Provincial Advisor to PEI People First. Her working and volunteer career has focused on social justice issues with a focus on access to justice, women, persons with intellectual disabilities, sexual abuse survivors, and family violence prevention / intervention. She has a Masters degree in Theory, Culture and Politics from Trent University and a diploma in Conflict Resolution Studies from UPEI. She lives in Stratford with her menagerie of two cats, a conure parrot, and two budgies.

Marcia Enman, Wellington — Treasurer (to June 2014)

Council term: June 17, 2009, to June 13, 2014

Marcia Enman is the general manager and editor of *La Voix Acadienne*, the only French-language newspaper on Prince Edward Island. She has been with the paper since 1978 and continues to work to develop the publication that serves the Acadian and Francophone community of PEI. Among her community and volunteer activities, Marcia is vice-president of *L'Association de la presse francophone* and is a village councillor for the Wellington Village Municipal Council. Marcia also sits on the Junior Achievement of PEI Board as a selection committee member. Marcia remains very interested in Actions Femmes, the francophone organization that represents views and works closely with the Acadian and francophone women on the Island and acts as a liaison between this group and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Marcia is a single mother of one daughter and lives in Wellington.

Melissa Mullen, Lewes — Treasurer (from June 2014)

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2016

Melissa Mullen is a farmer, actor, and playwright. In her community she volunteers for the Macphail Foundation Farmers Helping Farmers school twinning, and organizes recreational activities in a seniors' home. Her commitments have also included teaching literacy workshops for parents of young children, and leading theatre workshops for adults and children. Melissa has served on the boards of the P.E.I. Certified Organic Producers' Co-op and TheatrePEI. Currently, she is a founding member of Beyond the Bridge Theatre, a women-centred theatre company which produces Canadian plays with challenging roles for women. She is also a member of the Homestead Players, bringing Island history to the stage. Melissa lives in Lewes with her husband Rob and two daughters, Sophie and Alena.

Advisory Council Members, continued

Mari Basiletti, Canoe Cove — Member

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2016

Mari obtained a BFA in Fine Arts from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1969, and a Diploma in Occupational Therapy (OT) from WSU in 1972. She completed a M.Sc. in occupational therapy from Dalhousie University in 2006. During her career as an OT, Mari was employed in acute psychiatry, community mental health, private practice and in long-term care. Mari has worked with children, adolescents, and adult survivors of abuse within her clinical practice, and has been actively involved in PEI groups and agencies that are working together to improve services to women and children and to eliminate violence and abuse in our communities. Mari loves to paint in oils and watercolors and often portrays the strength and spirit of women through her art. She retired in 2012 from her position as supervisor of Rehabilitation Services at Hillsborough Hospital in Charlottetown after almost 40 years of occupational therapy practice. Mari resides in Canoe Cove with her partner, JoDee, and has two sons and two grandchildren. She is a member of the local Women's Institute and the Canoe Cove Community Association.

Eileen Brown, West Cape — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Eileen Brown worked in the banking business prior to 21 years' employment with the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. She retired from the Board in January 2011 and now serves as Administrator of the O'Leary Potato Blossom Festival and a Board Member on the O'Leary Community Hospital Foundation and OCH CARES fundraising committee. Eileen remains actively involved in her community, including volunteering for the Canadian Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Allied Youth, Meals on Wheels and Community Schools. She is also an active union member, having served on numerous UPSE Committees representing women's equality and education concerns. She is currently the Director of Local 19 UPSE Retirees, a Board Member of UPSE, and on the National Union Action on Retiree Concerns (NUARC) Committee.

Yvonne Deagle, Miminegash — Member

Council term: September 9, 2014, to September 9, 2017

Yvonne Deagle is the current vice-chairperson of Actions Femmes. She is the mother of two grown children and grandmother of five. She has a background as a municipal councillor and municipal administrator and has also worked in accounting. Today, Yvonne works for the French School Board and is an active volunteer on numerous boards of Acadian and Francophone community organizations. Yvonne has great energy and a sense of humour.

Louise MacLeod, Uigg — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2016

Louise MacLeod worked many years as a nurse and nurse supervisor, a case worker with Protestant Family Services Bureau, and a teacher in adult education. These experiences made her very aware of the many challenges women face. She has been an active volunteer with Women's Institute, United Church Women, PEI Volunteers for Literacy, 4-H, and other organizations. She has served on boards for Human Resources Development Canada appeals, Orwell Corner Historic Village, and the Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead. She and her husband Arnold raised a son, a daughter, and a foster daughter and have always been involved in the care of family and neighbours.

Advisory Council Members, continued

Catherine Rankin, Summerside — Member

Council term: July 26, 2011, to July 26, 2016

Catherine Rankin was born and raised in Summerside, PEI. She graduated from Athena Regional High School and completed one year of Business Administration at Holland College. Catherine retired in 2009 after a successful, 33-year career in the hospitality industry. She is a past member of the Charlottetown Royalty Rotary Club and the Summerside Rotary Club, past board member and Committee Chair of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce, past Executive Board Member of Meetings PEI, and member of the Business Administration Advisory Committee, Holland College. She now lives back in her hometown of Summerside.

Patti Wheatley, Charlottetown — Member

Council term: January 22, 2013, to January 22, 2016

Patti Wheatley holds a Bachelor of Arts from St. Thomas University where she studied Human Rights and Sociology, and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New Brunswick. She has a demonstrated interest in women's issues and has worked with a variety of organizations, from small women's groups to the United Nations. Her areas of research and interest include women's health, human rights, and non-traditional women's work. Patti also continues to be involved with organizations focused on HIV/AIDS. Patti lives in Charlottetown and practices law at Stewart McKelvey, with a focus on labour/employment and litigation.

Council Member Highlights & Changes, 2014–2015:

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Women self-nominate for inclusion through the "Participate PEI" program.

Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women. Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms and may serve a maximum total of five years.

In the 2014–2015 fiscal year, Catherine Rankin was reappointed for a two-year term. Marcia Enman completed her maximum five-year term on Council. Melissa Mullen was elected Treasurer. Yvonne Deagle of Miminegash was appointed for her first three-year term.

Top: Council says "merci" to Marcia Enman, centre, with a service award for her five years of dedicated work on Council. With Diane Kays, left, and Jane Ledwell, right.

Bottom: Council says "bienvenue" to new member Yvonne Deagle, centre, with an orientation meeting in Summerside. With Jane Ledwell, left, and Michelle Jay, right.

Advisory Council Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2014–2015.

Jane Ledwell — Executive Director

Jane was hired in June 2004 as a researcher and policy analyst. She was hired as Executive Director in September 2012 and works full-time.

Becky Tramley — Office Manager

Becky joined Council staff in October 1986 and works part-time.

Michelle Jay — Program Coordinator

Michelle was hired as Program Coordinator in September 2012 and works full-time.

Staff Development, 2014–2015:

- The staff and chairperson continue to have a regularly scheduled weekly meeting and to take opportunities for team-building and community-building together.
- Staff members completed team training on document layout and design that had begun the previous year.
- The ED and Program Coordinator took advantage of two-day training on Preventing Family Violence by Building Trauma-Informed Community Practices (May 28–29).
- The Program Coordinator had the opportunity to pursue training on diversity offered by the Interministerial Women's Secretariat *Honouring Our Differences* (May 12) and the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada *Responsive Leadership for a Diverse Community* (3 days in November and December).
- Individual staff participated in workshops and webinars when possible to increase training on relevant topics. An example was a webinar on *Connecting the Dots on Different Forms of Violence*, attended by Jane and Diane.

Michelle, Becky, and Jane at the Equality Garden Party in September 2014.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from other regions of Canada.

Coalition of Provincial & Territorial Advisory Councils on the **Status of Women**

List of Major Coalition Activities, 2014–2015:

- In September 2014, the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils met in Charlottetown, PEI. The National Coalition meets annually to share information about the activities, issues, and best practices of each member organization and together to plan actions to address national issues that affect the status of Canadian women.
- Topics for discussion and action at the National Coalition table include
  - Need for national strategies to prevent violence against women and girls
  - Need for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women
  - Changes to Employment Insurance benefits, including maternity and parental benefits
  - Unaddressed instances of sexism and misogyny by professionals such as judges or doctors
  - Unequal access to basic health services, especially abortion care
  - Effective ways to support women in leadership at all levels
  - Inclusive economic development that benefits women equally with men
  - Need for supports and services for sex trade workers
  - Support for the national campaign for a debate on women's issues in the next federal election: Up for Debate
- The National Coalition will carry these issues forward with research-based letters to policy-makers and to the general public, under the leadership of Coalition chair Linda Ross of the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The hospitable members of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women had an opportunity to meet counterparts from across the country in a reception hosted by Hon. Valerie Docherty, PEI's Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.
- Most members of the National Coalition were able to stay in PEI to participate as delegates at A Bold Vision conference.

Some members of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women in Charlottetown, September 2014.

Equality Report Card

The Equality Report Card assesses the PEI government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality. Council released a pilot Report Card in 2008. Subsequent Equality Report Cards have been published in 2009, 2011, and 2013.

The Equality Report Card is a tool to follow up on recommendations and advice. Since its inception, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has made recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. They have shared recommendations with government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in policy guides, correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, both independently and in partnership with other equality-seeking organizations.

The Council develops the Report Card in collaboration with government and the community.

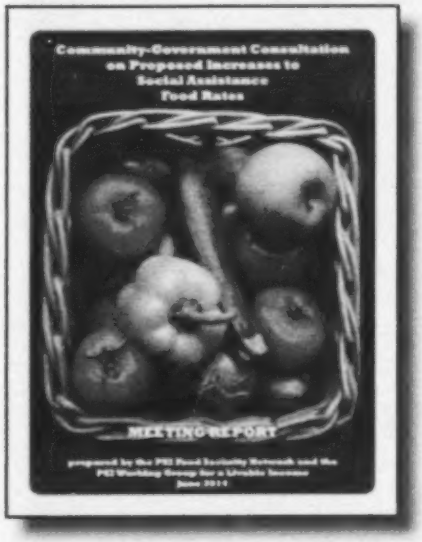
Preparations for the 2015 Equality Report Card:

- The Council released priority action areas and criteria for assessment for both the 2013 and 2015 Equality Report Cards in June 2012.
- The 2013 Equality Report Card is being used as a benchmark for the 2015 Report Card. On the 2013 Equality Report Card, The Advisory Council awarded the PEI government a grade of "C" for its progress up to 2013 towards equality and diversity goals.
- During its May 2014 meeting, Council members discussed updates and changes since the 2013 Report Card. Positive developments Council members noted included gender identity in the human rights code; a promise to move towards gender parity on provincial agencies, boards, and commissions; funding for the "Triple P" parenting support program; some improvements in home care; and new reporting requirements in the Adult Protection Act to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. On the more negative side, Council pointed to gaps in social assistance and housing and other income issues; challenges accessing legal aid for family law; lack of steps towards a family violence court option; and inadequate access to women's health options for both reproductive rights and for birth and adoption. Council members were monitoring emerging supports and services for mental health and addictions.

- From January to March 2015, Council began the work of gathering information from government and community to assess for the 2015 Report Card. Using surveys, workshop meetings, focus groups, and email as consultation tools, Council will review evidence from government, set draft grades, and determine supporting analysis to create the 2015 report.
- The 2015 Equality Report Card will be released in June 2015 and will be available on the Council's website.

Other Research & Policy Work

Whenever possible, the Advisory Council submits briefs to public consultations on issues of concern to women and families. Council's submissions build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed in consultation with Council members and often include consultation with community members or organizations.



Highlights of Other Research & Policy Work, 2014–2015:

- **Consultation on Social Assistance Food Rates, Department of Community Services and Seniors** (March to May 2014)

  On April 14, the Council Chairperson and staff met with Community Services and Seniors officials as part of a consultation on proposed changes to food rates for social assistance recipients. Our written submission to the consultation on behalf of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women was submitted May 15 and is available here: http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw/index.php3?number=1051630&lang=E.

  As part of the PEI Food Security Network and the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, the Council also took part in a community-government consultation on proposed increases to social assistance food rates. Council staff had the privilege of putting together the meeting report on behalf of the participants. Here is the link to the report, including written submissions from various community groups: http://peifoodsecurity.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/full-food-rates-consultation.pdf

  There's also a news release summing up the government-community meeting on the PEI Food Security Network website here: https://peifoodsecurity.wordpress.com/2014/05/30/consultation-with-department-of-community-services-and-seniors-about-food-rates/

- **Priority Issues 2015, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women** (February 2015)

  In January, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty asked Diane Kays to consult with Advisory Council members about priority issues for 2015. Four topics rose to the top with strong agreement among Council members:

  - Social assistance: Increased social assistance support to allow women, men, and families to meet their basic needs, in particular for food and shelter. Leaving unspent funding for social assistance on the table is not acceptable.
  - Housing: Affordable and appropriate housing, especially for low-income individuals who are seniors, people with physical and intellectual disabilities, and people with mental health or substance use problems.
  - Sexual and reproductive health: Improved access to abortion care and other sexual and reproductive health services, with a focus on local access to abortion (repatriating abortion care).
  - Front-line services for women: Increased funding for non-governmental community-based organizations that provide services for victims and survivors of violence and abuse.

  Other topics that received strong support from Council members included support for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and improved support for health services and Islanders trying to get or remain healthy. Council members presented these priorities in person to Minister Docherty at the March 25, 2015, Council meeting in Summerside.

Inquiries & Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to inquiries from individuals, groups, and government. These range from requests for information to crisis calls and requests for advocacy. People make inquiries in person or by telephone, e-mail, or correspondence. Inquiries are often complex and often come from women who have unsuccessfully tried to get service elsewhere.

The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women. We offer support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual inquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Inquiries, 2014–2015:

- **Relationship break-ups:** Requests from individuals and service providers for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be strong. Relationship break-ups are especially vulnerable times for women, with impacts on their physical, emotional, and financial well-being. Women reported experiencing challenges in accessing social assistance, legal aid, maintenance enforcement, and child custody arrangements, among other issues.
- **PEI issues:** Inquiries related to concerns about provincial government laws, policies, or programs covered a broad array of topics, with multiple calls received about the complex challenges of the following: poverty and lack of income to support a healthy life, women's mental health and addictions, male violence in relationships and associated issues including child custody and access, reproductive services and lack of abortion access, a concern about the changes in PAP clinics and screening for women over 65, supports for women in political leadership, sexual assault and workplace harassment, and the need for adequate services for women with disabilities. Also prevalent were inquiries related to women's health generally – food security, sexual and reproductive health, basic income guarantee – and justice-related issues. This year, there were a number of callers requesting information and advocacy concerning a decrease in childcare subsidies granted to women on Income Support who want to upgrade their skills by attending an educational program.
- **General inquiries:** Diverse inquiries included a request to continue anti-bullying and violence prevention, a request for assistance in dealing with an abusive neighbour, a concern about cultural effects of *Fifty Shades of Gray*, and a complaint about inadequate and disrespectful homecare services for a woman with physical disabilities. Underlying the multiple challenges women face is the often-present burden of impoverishment.
- **Referrals:** Referrals were frequently made to the PEI Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so. Referrals are frequently made to Family Violence Prevention Services and the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in cases where violence or sexual abuse/assault occur. Referrals are sometimes made to the PEI Human Rights Commission or to IRAC. Some referrals respond to requests for information. They are made to organizations such as Community Legal Information Association, Interministerial Women's Secretariat, PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, Family Resource Centres, Abortion Rights Network, and the PEI Business Women's Association.

Media

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to requests for comment on issues that affect women and families.

Ordinarily, approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Program Coordinator.

The Advisory Council began producing occasional video news releases in-house in September 2011 and has a channel at vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen.

News Releases, 2014–2015:

- Response to the Closure of the Morgentaler Clinic in Fredericton, New Brunswick (April 10)
- Council Meets in Canoe Cove (May 8)
- Equality Garden Party a Grand Success (September 5)
- Celebrate Women, Activism and Advocacy / Célébrons les femmes, l'activisme et la revendication (March 2)
- Sad News from the Advisory Council: Cherished Chairperson Dies (March 29)

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2014–2015:

- What is an "undue risk to society?" (August 21)
- Honouring Our Indigenous Sisters / En l'honneur de nos soeurs autochtones (December 6)
- Advocacy, Activism and Agitation Still Required / La revendication, l'activisme et l'agitation sont toujours necessaires (March 6)

Videos, 2014–2015, at http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen:

- *Why Basic Income? Campaign for a Basic Income Guarantee* (created for the Working Group for a Livable Income with images from Women's Network PEI Paths to Prosperity project, April 2014) https://vimeo.com/92723563
- *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women – Call for an Inquiry* (created by Council member Mari Basiletti and delegates from A Bold Vision conference, October 2014) https://vimeo.com/108253990
- *2014 Purple Ribbon Call for an Inquiry* (November 2014) https://vimeo.com/112806919
- *2015 Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence* (February 2015) https://vimeo.com/119874705

- The new videos on the PEI Status of Women channel were viewed over **250** times. The video we created for the Campaign for a Basic Income Guarantee was viewed over **400** times on the C-BIG PEI channel.
- Council staff also assisted the PEI Coalition for Women in Government with a series of three video interviews with women with experience on municipal councils: Kathleen Casey and Tina Mundy in English and Marcia Enman in French. Videos available here: https://vimeo.com/peiwomeningovernment

Michelle at the microphone at the April 17 Abortion Rights Network news conference to respond to the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic in New Brunswick.

Interview Requests, 2014–2015:

- **CBC Radio:** effects of decreasing gas prices on low-income Islanders (November 6); College of Physicians and Surgeons (December 16); background information on ombudsperson (January); Community Services strategic plan (February 25)
- **CBC Television/Radio**: closure of Morgentaler clinic (April 10/11); social assistance food rates (June 27); A Bold Vision (September 24); women in municipal elections (October 14); Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee (November 4); UPEI Presidential review (February 2)
- **Radio-Canada,** *Le Réveil*: French Language School Board elections (April 30); A Bold Vision (September 22); changes to EI zones (October 11)
- **Radio-Canada Télévision/Radio:** closure of Morgentaler clinic (April 10/11); women in municipal elections (October 7); Purple Ribbon Campaign (November 6); response to NB striking down abortion restrictions (November 26)
- **CFCY:** closure of Morgentaler clinic (April 10/11); response to NB striking down abortion restrictions (November 26)
- **Ocean 100:** closure of Morgentaler clinic (April 10/11)
- **News 88.9** the *Todd Veinotte Show:* abortion access in New Brunswick for Island women (April 14)
- ***Charlottetown Guardian*:** increases to the minimum wage (April 11); A Bold Vision/status of PEI women (September 17); Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 5)
- ***Eastern Graphic***: A Bold Vision (September 24)
- ***La Voix Acadienne***: women in municipal elections (October 7); plans for the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (November 26)
- ***National Post***: abortion access (May 26)

News Conferences, 2014–2015:

- Participated in news conference with Abortion Rights Network in response to the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic in Fredericton, NB (April 17)
- Attended National Abortion Federation news conference on local abortion access (May 28)
- Participated in news conference on changes to Employment Insurance zones for Coalition for Fair EI (October 6)

New Media & Social Media

Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff members independently manage content of the Advisory Council's official website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw. Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line on the website as they are released.

The Advisory Council also uses social media to educate and engage. The Council has maintained a blog since September 2007. A presence on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter started in March 2012.

Wordpress Blog, 2014–2015, http://peiacsw.wordpress.com:

- People made about **11,600** visits to the blog, or just under **1,000** a month.
- The top post was our memorial for Diane Kays, posted March 29 and viewed about **3,500** times in three days. The blog continues to be a good space to share the e-newsletter for non-subscribers and to highlight events. News from the blog gets posted to Facebook through the blog.

Twitter, 2014–2015, @peiacsw:

- At March 31, about **965** tweets had been posted the previous year. We had about **1,400** followers, a gain of about **525** over the previous year.
- Highlights included tweets about A Bold Vision, RTs of our e-newsletter, tweets about #MMIW (missing and murdered Indigenous women), tweets about #basicincome, live tweets from events, and engaging conversations about issues of the day.

Facebook, 2014–2015, http://facebook.com/peistatusofwomen:

- Posts were made more frequently; both reach and engagement are rising.
- At March 31, the Facebook page had about **420** "likes," an increase from **285** in 2013–2014 year.
- Top posts for the year (more than **500**): Diane Kays memorial; missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW); abortion and reproductive rights; safety survey of Charlottetown; purple ribbon events; sexual assault and harassment (for example, Dal dentistry students & school dress codes); basic income and poverty reduction; sexual consent; and general topics related to feminism, equality, and male privilege.
- Photos of local women and girls continue to generate interest (for example, posts noting achievements such as Catherine Ronahan's citizenship citation and JoDee Samuelson's animated film *Women of Confederation*). Social commentaries on identity and health also ranked high.

Newsletters & Activities Updates

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They receive Activities Updates and special Council publications and promotions.

As a free community service, subscribers to the weekly e-newsletter receive submitted listings of community events and notices.

E-Newsletter, 2014–2015:

- Our E-Newsletter with community events and notices about upcoming events, activities, or items of interest for women in the community is sent directly to our subscriber list usually every Thursday and is also available at a link from our blog at peiacsw.wordpress.com.
- More than **250** people subscribe to the e-news, an increase of more than **80** over last year.
- Subscriptions are welcome at http://eepurl.com/rQH6P.

Activities Updates, 2014–2015:

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2014

Mailouts, 2014–2015:

- Invitations to the Equality Garden Party (August 2014)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Materials (November 2014)

Collaboration with Community & Government

Meetings & Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council. Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence.

Melissa Mullen, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Valerie Docherty, Kelly Robinson, and Eileen Brown at a March 25, 2015, meeting and consultation.

Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, 2014–2015:

- Council Chairperson Diane Kays meets with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Valerie Docherty, regularly. Meetings are supported by a memorandum outlining issues. The PEIACSW Executive Director and Program Coordinator regularly participate in the meetings, as does the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
    - **July 16, 2014:** Topics included Council appointments, the National Coalition of Advisory Councils, the Equality Report Card, social assistance food rates, abortion access, the Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council, the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, the Equality Garden Party, and the Purple Ribbon Campaign.
    - **January 29, 2015:** Topics included the Purple Ribbon Campaign, housing issues, PAP screening changes, and the upcoming Equality Report Card.

Other Selected Meetings, 2014–2015:

- Phone, e-mail, and in-person consultations with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (ongoing)
- Chairperson and ED meeting with the Director of Income Support (April 3)
- Chairperson and staff meeting with Deputy Minister of Community Services and Seniors and officials on proposed changes to food rates for social assistance recipients (April 14 – *more information on page 12*)
- Meeting with the Minister of Health and Wellness and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women re. abortion access updates (June 6)
- Meeting with officials from Municipal Affairs about supporting women candidates to run in municipal elections (September 18)
- Canada World Youth presentation to Mayor Clifford Lee of the results of their Charlottetown safety survey (December 11)

Selected Correspondence, 2014–2015:

- Letters to Minister of Health and Wellness on reproductive rights and on follow-up to meetings (May 6, June 6, November 6)
- Letter to Health PEI requesting information (October 6)
- Letter to Premier Robert Ghiz to follow up on meeting re. reproductive rights (October 23)
- Letter to UPEI Board of Governors re. Presidential review (January 20)
- Letters to all departments of government, accompanied by Equality Report Card questionnaires (January)
- Letters of support for organizations making applications for equality projects, letters of reference for women associated with our work, and nominations of Island women for awards and honours (ongoing)

Community Consultations

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members consult with many individuals, organizations, and sectors on a variety of issues related to the status of women on PEI.

Community Consultations, 2014–2015:

- Chairperson's consultations included meetings with the Director of Income Support, colleagues of the PEI Literacy Alliance, and Isabelle Christian, former Chairperson of the Advisory Council. The Chair also consulted with the Community Services Deputy Minister and staff regarding food rates for Income Support clients.
- The Executive Director provided information to a variety of students and researchers on topics such as women living with HIV/AIDS, basic income guarantee, healthy masculinity, domestic violence action plans, proportional representation, and equality or gender-based analysis.
- The Program Coordinator consulted about the theme of missing and murdered Indigenous women (#MMIW) with the Native Council, Aboriginal Women's Association, Family Violence Prevention Services, Interministerial Women's Secretariat, and Department of Education Curriculum Specialist.
- Council meetings provided educational opportunities to hear from the RESPECT Project (preventing sexual assault), the Aboriginal Women's Association, Community Services and Seniors strategic planning team, the Council of People with Disabilities, and mental health and addictions experts. During Council meetings there was also focused consideration and discussion of Social Assistance food rates, sexual and reproductive rights/ health, and the Purple Ribbon Campaign theme and Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Chairs Circle Consultation

In 2014, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women held its third annual roundtable of past and present Chairpersons of the Advisory Council.

Through facilitated discussion, they reflected on ACSW challenges and achievements in key areas in the past three decades. The Chairs Circle is an opportunity to share collective knowledge and experience among long-time women's equality advocates.

Chairs Circle
Prince Edward Island

Chairs Circle, 2014:

- The 2014 Chairs Circle took place on May 9, 2014, at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown. The current Chairperson and six past Chairpersons took part.
- The 2014 Chairs Circle served as a focus group for resources for women on local sexual and reproductive health services that the Council is developing.

Chairs Circle 2014 participants. Back row: Patricia Roy, Sharon O'Brien, Dianne Porter, and Colleen MacQuarrie. Front row: Barb Currie, Isabelle Christian, and Diane Kays.

Special Event: Equality Garden Party

Thanks to funding from the PEI 2014 Community Fund, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women hosted an Equality Garden Party to celebrate past and present women of influence in PEI.

The Garden Party helped belatedly mark the 25th anniversary of the 1988 PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act and start the celebration of the Council's 40th anniversary of its establishment in 1975.

Garden Party Highlights, 2014:

The sky cleared over Brackley on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, just in time for an end-of-summer garden party at The Dunes to celebrate 150 years of work towards women's equality in Prince Edward Island.

The Equality Garden Party was attended by more than 120 people, many of them wearing special hats or fascinators for the occasion. The event was made possible by the PEI 2014 Community Grants Fund and put on by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Hon. Catherine Callbeck, a Canadian icon of women's leadership in business and politics, served as honorary host for the event.

Honorary host Hon. Catherine Callbeck, with Diane Kays and Hon. Marion Reid.

The Equality Garden Party recognized the special role of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women by inviting past and current chairpersons, staff, and Council members as special guests.

The Council is approaching its 40-year anniversary in 2015, and the province's PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act was legislated just over 25 years ago, in 1988.

Council members and staff. Back row: Michelle Jay, Jane Ledwell, and Melissa Mullen. Front row: Becky Tramley, Catherine Rankin, Kelly Robinson, Patti Wheatley, Eileen Brown, Diane Kays, Louise MacLeod, and Mari Basiletti.

The Equality Garden Party also acknowledged Council's mandate to advise government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women by specially inviting current and past Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, to thank them for their work in this role.

Community Events

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members continue to consult informally with a variety of individuals, organizations, and sectors. The Chairperson, Executive Director, and Program Coordinator played a role in a number of events.

Community Events, 2014–2015:

- International Women's Day Committee evaluation (April 8)
- A Bold Vision visionaries "reveal" celebration (April 9)
- Justice Options for Women 2-day *Family Violence Training for Interpreters* (April 10 & 11 – *Program Coordinator as moderator*)
- Community Forums on Basic Income Guarantee (Rustico, April 22 – *ED as coordinator;* Souris, April 23 – *Program Coordinator as coordinator;* Charlottetown, June 11)
- Coalition for Fair EI meeting of elected officials on EI changes (April 23 – *ED as chairperson of the consultation*)
- Rally for Abortion Access (May 8)
- Honouring Our Differences training organized by IWS and Justice Options for Women (May 12)
- Celebration of Island Studies at UPEI (May 21)
- Women's Institute Annual Meeting, panel on drug/alcohol issues (May 24)
- Hilda Ramsay Fundraising Dinner for women in politics (May 24)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Women's Luncheon (May 25 – *Council member Eileen Brown as a speaker*)
- Minister Valerie Docherty's reception for Atlantic Ministers Responsible for Status of Women (May 26)
- Presentation to community group on basic income (June 8)
- Social isolation and elder abuse video conference (June 10)
- Better Beginnings, Better Futures - addressing childhood poverty (July 25)
- Retirement Reception for Senator Catherine Callbeck (July 25)
- Abortion: The Unfinished Revolution conference (August 7 and 8)
- Panmure Island Pow Wow (August 16)
- Atlantic Summer Institute keynote address by Sen. Art Eggleton (August 19)
- Book launch for *BORN!*, published by the PEI Literacy Alliance (August 28)
- Senior Care Round Table (August 28)
- BIG Social Justice Symposium (September 20 – *ED as a panellist*)
- Rally for abortion access at Province House (September 20)
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4)
- Aboriginal Justice Forum (October 17)
- Charlottetown Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Social Justice Issues, hosted by St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown (October 19)

Canada World Youth Participants Teyumbar Dramani and Sean MacLean volunteered at the Status of Women office in the fall of 2014.

Community Events, 2014–2015, continued:

- Cyberbullying Community Response workshop, hosted by Women's Network PEI and EPWIC (October 21)
- UPEI Rainbow Alliance Vigil against Homophobia (October 21)
- Presentation on poverty and basic income guarantee to United Church Presbytery (October 23 - *Program Coordinator as presenter*)
- Workshop on Institutionalization of People with Intellectual Disabilities (October 24)
- Daniel O'Hanley Memorial Lecture – the sacredness of water (November 2)
- Speech from the Throne (November 12)
- Connecting Forms of Violence webinar (November 20)
- "A Socialist Takes Stock" Confederation Centre of the Arts Symons Lecture by Stephen Lewis (November 21)
- "Waves of Change" consultation on food security (November 25)
- Minister's statement in the Legislature for International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25)
- FASD consultation hosted by PHAC and the Aboriginal Women's Association (December 2 and follow-up on February 18)
- Beyond Jian: Community Meeting on Sexual Assault (January 6 – *Vice-Chair Kelly Robinson and ED as small-group facilitators*)
- Coalition for Women in Government New Year's Levee (January 28 – *Council office as hosting venue*)
- Workshop on Alternative Food Marketing, PEI Food Security Network (March 5)
- IPAC Women in Leadership breakfast (March 6)
- Interministerial Women's Secretariat International Women's Day Lunch and Learn (March 6 – *ED as a speaker*)
- Justice Options for Women workshop (March 11)

At the Equality Garden Party, September 2014. Julie Devon Dodd, Ann Sherman, Dianne Hicks Morrow, Gail Jay, and Kirstin Lund.

Sisters in Spirit Vigil, October 2014. Left: Chief Brian Francis, AWA President Judy Clark, and Chief Matilda Ramjattan with RCMP escort. Right: Speaker Sarah Jackson (right) and friend.

Special Event Partnership: A Bold Vision

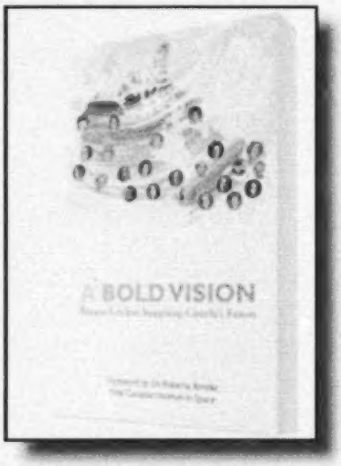
2014 was a historic year on Prince Edward Island, a year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, and the resulting vision that led to the formation of Canada. The Charlottetown Conference was a meeting which enabled 23 men to create a bold vision, form relationships, and begin conversations about what our country could be.

We wanted to know what 23 women would do with that opportunity.

A coalition of women's organizations in Prince Edward Island came together, with support from PEI 2014 Inc., to commemorate the Charlottetown Conference and celebrate the vital role women played and will continue to play in the advancement of our country.

Bold Vision Highlights, 2014:

- The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women was a partner organization and member of the steering committee on A Bold Vision, an event "150 Years in the Making." Council members and staff helped promote nominations of visionaries and invite attendees to the Bold Vision women's leadership conference. Members and staff attended special events such as A Bold Vision visionaries "reveal" celebration (April 9) and Minister Valerie Docherty's statement in the Legislature about A Bold Vision (April 10), as well as the conference and public vision session in September 2014.
- As part of the steering committee, Council's ED played a special role. Jane worked with visionaries to edit their book of visions, *A Bold Vision: Women Leaders Imagining Canada's Future*. This extraordinary book was launched at a public vision session at the end of A Bold Vision conference. Jane also participated with steering committee members to select visionaries, prepared the layout of the conference program, and participated in the conference planning, communications, and teamwork. It was a thrilling, challenging, inspiring, and rewarding year that came out of Island women's bold visions!



- Read the visionaries' extraordinary collective vision statement, developed collectively in person in PEI, here: http://aboldvision.ca/vision-statement/

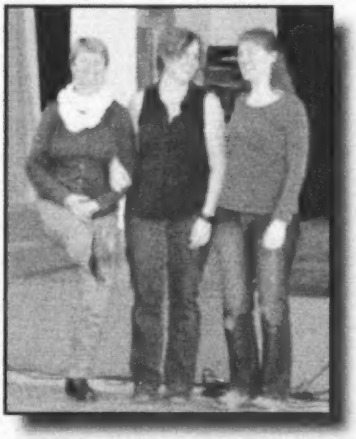
Seated around the Confederation Table at Province House in PEI in a recreation of the famous Robert Harris painting of the Fathers of Confederation are 2014 Bold Visionaries. Clockwise from top right: Kluane Adamek, Crystal Fraser, Nazanin Afshin-Jam MacKay, Lana Payne, Kim Campbell, Shelagh Day, Becka Viau, Bonnie Brayton, Carolyn Bennett, Jessie Housty (standing), El Jones (standing), Maria Mourani, Eva Aariak, R Irene d'Entremont, Hazel McCallion, Pamela Palmater, Catherine Potvin, Natalie Panek, Eman Bare, Mina Mawani (standing), and Margaret-Ann Armour (standing). Missing from photo, Libby Burnham. Photo by Brian Simpson.

Partnerships

The Advisory Council is committed to participating in the work of relevant coalitions, task forces, research projects, or other community-led activities. Council contributes in-kind work and expertise in gender-based analysis to our partner groups. Council members gain access to research, new perspectives, follow-up on advocacy, and more.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2014–2015:

- **A Bold Vision 2014 Steering Committee:** The Advisory Council is a partner in and Council's ED sat on this committee to plan the PEI 2014–supported women's leadership project. Other project partners were Women's Network PEI, PEI Coalition for Women in Government, PEI Business Women's Association, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
  ACSW Role: Attending meetings, project planning and promotions, anthology editing, and conference event support.
- **Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI:** In 2014–2015, the Advisory Council became a member-at-large of this provincial association. In November 2014, our two organizations co-hosted a roundtable on being an ally to Aboriginal women. We also collaborated on content for the Purple Ribbon Campaign teachers' guide and Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.
- **Abortion Rights Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator sit on this committee, which came together to advocate for equitable abortion services and to ensure women have accurate and neutral information about where and how to access abortion services. Council's ED additionally sits on the research advisory committee for "Understanding for a Change," Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie's reproductive justice research at UPEI.
  ACSW Role: Attending meetings, examining provincial policies; assisting with communication strategies; participating in projects and events.
- **International Women's Day Committee:** Council's Program Coordinator brought together and led this diverse, active committee to plan and present events for International Women's Day.
  ACSW role: Coordinating the committee and leading IWD planning.
- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committee:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women.
  ACSW role: Adjudicating applications and reviewing related communications.
- **Justice Options for Women:** The Council's Program Coordinator serves on the advisory committee for this project. Justice Options creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice. This is a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI. Justice Options developed Circles of Safety and support for women at high risk of violence and is currently working on a project on rural and immigrant women and girls.
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings to set directions and develop project plans and funding applications; participating in the working group for immigrant women; reviewing products and publications.



Three International Women's Day Committee members, Tina Pranger, Michelle Jay, and Nancy Clement, on March 8, 2015.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2014–2015, continued:

- **Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED sits on this task force which works with the community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol.

  ACSW role: Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects and public events, including a youth video project on healthy relationships.

- **Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council**: The Council's Chairperson is appointed to represent the Council on this advisory group, whose purpose is to develop a provincial strategy on mental health and addictions.

  ACSW role: Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; reviewing research and proposals; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.

The Premier's Action Committee at the 2015 Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence, February 2015.

- **PAC – Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. The ED also serves on the Social Marketing Working Group and the Program Coordinator serves on the Youth Engagement Working Group.

  ACSW role: Attending full group, administrative, and working group meetings; assisting with direction for the five-year strategy; reviewing documents; advocating for a focus on violence against women and other gender and equality roots of violence; participating in projects, publications, and events.

- **Paths to Prosperity Advisory Committee:** The Council's ED is a member of the advisory committee for this Women's Network PEI–led project to develop a community response to poverty in Prince Edward Island. This project completed its work in 2014–2015.

  ACSW role: Attending advisory committee meetings, advising on draft publications, and participating in projects and events.

- **PEI Coalition for Fair EI:** This ad hoc committee came together in 2012 to counter changes to the federal Employment Insurance system. Council's Program Coordinator and ED have both collaborated with this Coalition of women's, labour, and social justice organizations.

  ACSW role: Contributing to plans for strategy, communications, and recommendations to government; offering gender analysis; participating in projects, events, and publications.

Some members of the Coalition for Women in Government with PC leadership candidate Darlene Compton at the January 2015 New Year's Levee.

- **PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** Council's ED sits as a non-partisan member on this multi-partisan coalition that works to increase the number and proportion of women in elected positions in PEI.

  ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans; leading events and workshops on women in media; contributing to creating and disseminating research, media work, and publications; participating in meetings and events.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2014–2015, continued:

- **PEI Food Security Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator participate in working groups for this action and education network to improve Islanders' food security (access to adequate affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food within a food system that supports producers).

  ACSW role: Participating in meetings, workshops, and events; contributing gender analysis; taking part in evaluations; serving on working groups; assisting with developing briefs, presentations, and reports as needed.

Michelle Jay, Charlottetown MP Sean Casey, and Marcia Carroll at a summer workshop for the Working Group for a Livable Income, August 2014.

- **PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator serve on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to eliminate poverty and advocate for a livable income for all Islanders to live in good health and with dignity.

  ACSW role: Participating in meetings and special events; developing recommendations to government on poverty elimination; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking minutes for meetings; taking our turn with other organizations to draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government; coordinating and participating in community forums; creating a website and publications for the Campaign for a Basic Income Guarantee (C-BIG PEI).

- **RESPECT Project Advisory Committee:** The Council's ED serves on this Advisory Committee to a project on preventing and addressing sexual assault. The Status of Women Canada–funded project is led by the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre and Women's Network PEI.

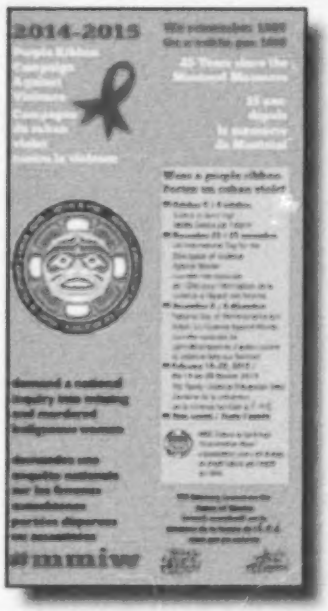
  ACSW role: Participating in meetings and events; contributing to planning and priorities; taking part in evaluations.

- **Victim Services Advisory Committee**: The Council's Chairperson represents the Council on this committee. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.

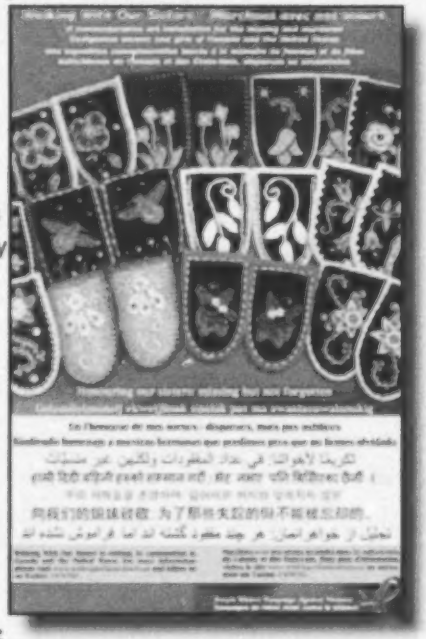
  ACSW role: Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

November 25 is the annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in an effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes and participates in the annual noontime Montreal Massacre Memorial Service in Charlottetown.



Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2014–2015:



Theme: Demand a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women (#MMIW).

Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guide: This year's bilingual guide for teachers included curriculum connections for Grades 7, 8, and 9 Social Studies, Grades 7, 8, and 9 Health, and high school family life education. It also provided teachers with resources on preventing violence against women. Handouts in English and French included background on the Purple Ribbon Campaign, a multilingual poster (featuring nine traditional and common-usage languages in PEI); information about the theme; ideas for being an ally with Aboriginal peoples; and first-person stories and poems from Aboriginal women.

Campaign Highlights, 2014–2015:

- Collaboration with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and Walking With Our Sisters, to secure rights to "Grandmother Moon" image on the bookmark and the moccasin image on the multilingual poster.
- Use of Kathy Knockwood Archer's poem "Survivors," Jessie Housty's Bold Vision essay "Reconciliation and Radical Storytelling," and Dr. Lynn Gehl's "Idle No More Ally Bill of Responsibilities" in the teachers' guide resources.
- Working closely with PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada and the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI to translate the poster theme *Honouring our sisters: missing but not forgotten* into nine (9) languages.
- The Purple Ribbon Campaign was officially launched on the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25, 2014. The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women read a supporting statement in the PEI Legislature.
- A popular public pinning bee took place at Beanz, November 4, 2014.
- Distribution of more than 17,000 bilingual bookmarks and ribbons; 190 Teachers' Guides resource packages to the Department of Education; and almost 5,000 purple ribbon temporary tattoos.
- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Premier Robert Ghiz's office, the City of Charlottetown, Confederation Centre of the Arts, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
- Special volunteer efforts and support to the Campaign came from the Federated Women's Institutes, Anderson House, Quilting B & More, Beanz Espresso Bar, Christian Ledwell, and Canada World Youth/Ghana participants.

At the roundtable, Julie Pellissier-Lush, Judy Clark, and Kathy Archer from the Aboriginal Women's Association, with Minister Responsible Valerie Docherty and Council Chairperson Diane Kays.

Sarah Jackson speaks at the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Eliza Starchild Knockwood sings at the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Roundtable on How to Be an Ally, November 25, 2014:

- The PEIACSW with the Aboriginal Women's Association organized a roundtable to consider how to be an ally with Indigenous women. More than forty (40) people joined the conversation.
- Attendees were engaged and receptive – many reported learning new information about the experience of Mi'kmaw people on PEI.
- Positive and practical ideas for how to be an effective ally were offered. Local Indigenous women were very pleased with the support they felt.
- Minister Valerie Docherty attended, as well as Michelle Harris-Genge of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, and a number of Council members.
- The roundtable refreshments were sponsored by Justice Options for Women; the Confederation Centre Public Library was a gracious host.

Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, 2014:

- The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on December 5th in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. All Advisory Council members available took part. More than 200 people attended the Charlottetown noontime service.
- Guest speaker Sarah Stewart-Jackson gave a moving speech on her personal experience of missing and murdered Indigenous women.
- Council members Melissa Mullen and Mari Basiletti read powerful profiles of PEI murdered women's lives and deaths.
- Candle-lighters included Premier Robert Ghiz, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty, RCMP, City Police, and representatives from women's and equality-seeking groups in the community.
- The service included silhouettes of murdered PEI women from the UPSE Silent Witnesses Initiative, coordinated by Pam MacKinnon.
- Special contributions to the service were an opening prayer by Elder Judy Clark, a song by Eliza Starchild Knockwood, piano music by Dr. David Morrison, and candle-lighting by family members and friends of murdered PEI women.

Family Violence Prevention Week (FVP), February 8–14, 2015

- ACSW staff work closely with the Premier's Action Committee throughout the year, particularly during FVP Week, to share resources and maximize impact. Council staff helped with social media and communications resources to support provincial efforts. Staff also made presentations to church and women's groups on violence prevention and MMIW.
- In the new calendar year, purple ribbons and informational bookmarks continued to be requested. Over 3,000 additional bookmarks and ribbons, 2,000 purple ribbon tattoos, and hundreds of posters and handouts were distributed leading up to and during FVP Week.
- Council Chairperson and staff members participated in the Walk in Silence for Victims of Violence and the reception following at City Hall. Several Council members attended events hosted in their geographic communities.

International Women's Day – March 8

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8th each year. Events on International Women's Day and the week surrounding it recognize women's ongoing struggle for equity.

The Advisory Council activities balance advocating for equality with celebrating the resilience and achievements of women – globally, nationally, and locally.

International Women's Day Highlights, 2015:

- The Advisory Council and IWD committee chose the theme of **Celebrating Women - Advocacy, Activism, and Agitation**.
- The IWD committee organized an IWD Coffeehouse featuring an eclectic diversity of women and girl performers, and served refreshments. The breadth and quality of the performances was notable (March 8).
- Together with Cinema Politica, the committee hosted a screening of *The Gulabi Gang* documentary about feminist activists in India (March 9).
- As well, there was a collaboration with Becka Viau to hold a *Women's Wisdom Circle,* exploring access to reproductive health on PEI. The fishbowl discussion process allowed a unique dialogue (March 10).
- The Chairperson's editorial "Advocacy, Activism and Agitation Still Required" was published in *The Guardian* (March 7).
- IWD celebrations were made possible with the volunteer efforts of individual women and the support of community organizations who offered staff time and resources. As well, the support of local unions in 2015 was key: PSAC, UPSE and the PEI Federation of Labour committed financial resources.
- On the one common day that is recognized in most of the world to honour and celebrate women, International Women's Day events create a concrete linkage with PEI newcomer women and their families. The Advisory Council also strengthens linkages with the staff of PEI ANC, who contribute hours of volunteer time to helping organize activities. IWD activities offer a chance for meaningful and inclusive interaction between new immigrants and the established PEI community.

Urmila Khanal performs a Nepali dance at the IWD Coffeehouse.

Council member Mari Basiletti and her partner JoDee Samuelson sing at the IWD Coffeehouse.

IWD committee member Farahnaz Rezaei with friends Fereshteh Shaer Zadeh and Kate Lui.

Leadership in Annual Events

Bursaries for Women

Each year, the Advisory Council awards four bursaries for post-secondary education. There is one bursary each to assist students at University of Prince Edward Island, Holland College, and Collège Acadie. The fourth bursary, named for late Council Vice-Chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada. The deadline to apply for bursaries is October 15 for all four bursaries. The University of Prince Edward Island also administers an internal bursary in our name, awarded to a woman studying Engineering.

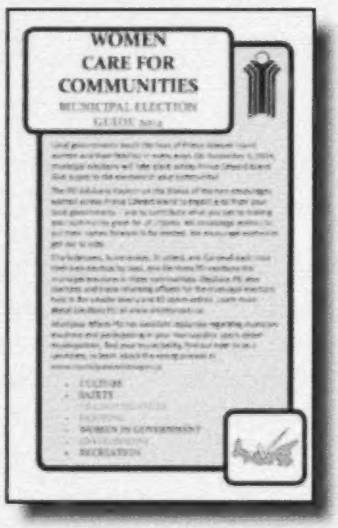
Bursary Recipients, 2014:

- **Collège de l'Acadie**: Carol Ann Shaw
- **Holland College**: Sam Petrie
- **University of Prince Edward Island**: Not awarded
- **Inge Blackett Memorial Bursary**: Lah May Paw
- **PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Engineering Bursary**: Not awarded

Publications List

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned throughout this report. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw.

- **Women Care for Communities: Municipal Election Guide 2014 / L'Engagement feminin au sein des collectivités : Guide des élections municipales 2014** (October 2014). *A bilingual guide to issues in municipal jurisdictions that affect women and diversity, prepared for 2014 municipal elections.*
- **Purple Ribbon Campaign Resource Guide for PEI Teachers / Guide de ressources pour les enseignant(e)s, Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence** (November 2014). *A bilingual, multi-grade guide for teachers, for use with the 2014–2015 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence.*



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management's Report

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and the integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility. Management is responsible for the notes to the financial statements and for ensuring that this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements.

Management is responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Advisory Council members are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control. The Council members review internal financial reports on a regular basis and externally audited financial statements annually.

The Auditor General conducts an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expresses her opinion on the financial statements. The Auditor General has full and free access to financial information and management of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women to meet as required.

On behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Jane Lodwell
Executive Director

May 25, 2015

Prince Edward Island | Île-du-Prince-Édouard

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the financial statements of the **Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women**, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets, and cash flow for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2015, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets, and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

B. Jane MacAdam, CPA, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
May 25, 2015

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
	$	$
Financial Assets		
Cash	57,681	7,636
Accounts receivable	2,251	1,732
	59,932	9,368
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 3)	18,483	17,483
Net Financial Assets (Debt)	40,449	(8,115)
Non Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	1,709	1,156
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	41,658	(6,959)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Approved on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Council Vice-Chair

Council Member

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus
for the year ended March 31, 2015

	Budget 2015	2015	2014
	$	$	$
Revenues			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island (Note 6)	198,000	250,260	149,701
Program revenue (Note 6)	7,525	4,955	6,264
Other	-	-	110
	205,525	255,215	156,075
Expenses			
Administration	14,775	9,045	12,040
Contracts	4,250	4,450	4,000
Council meetings/business	27,160	25,744	28,388
Equipment	-	1,552	810
Materials and supplies	3,831	9,225	8,779
Salaries and benefits	155,509	156,582	152,881
	205,525	206,598	206,898
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	-	48,617	(50,823)
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year		(6,959)	43,864
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), end of year		41,658	(6,959)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets (Debt)
for the year ended March 31, 2015

	Budget 2015	2015	2014
	$	$	$
Net Financial Assets (Debt), beginning of year	(8,115)	(8,115)	42,691
Changes in year:			
Annual surplus (deficit)	-	48,617	(50,823)
Change in prepaid expenses	-	(53)	17
Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)	-	48,564	(50,806)
Net Financial Assets (Debt), end of year	(8,115)	40,449	(8,115)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
	$	$
Cash provided (used) by:		
Operating Activities		
Annual surplus (deficit)	48,617	(50,823)
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	(519)	(1,260)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,000	2,905
Prepaid expenses	(53)	17
Cash provided (used) by operating activities	50,045	(49,161)
Cash, beginning of year	7,636	56,797
Cash, end of year	57,681	7,636

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2015

1. **Purpose of the Organization**

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, and political spheres of life. The Council is a non-taxable entity under the provisions of the federal *Income Tax Act*.

2. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Since the Council has no material unrealized remeasurement gains or losses attributed to foreign exchange, derivatives, portfolio investments, or other financial instruments, a statement of remeasurement gains and losses has not been prepared.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

a) **Cash**

Cash consists of balances on deposit at a financial institution.

b) **Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable are recorded at cost less any specific provision when collection is in doubt.

c) **Prepaid Expenses**

Prepaid expenses are charged to expense over the periods expected to benefit.

d) **Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are recorded for all amounts due for work performed and goods or services received during the year.

e) **Tangible Capital Assets**

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost provided the threshold of $3,000 is met and are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of five to fifteen years. Tangible capital asset purchases that do not meet the thresholds are expensed. No capital assets have been recognized because purchases did not meet the threshold for capitalization. During the year, equipment totaling $1,552 (2014 - $810) was expensed.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2015

2. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued...)**

f) **Revenues**

Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the revenue occurred. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis, except when the accruals cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty or when their estimation is impracticable.

Transfers (revenues from non-exchange transactions) are recognized as revenues when the transfer is authorized, any eligibility criteria are met, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

g) **Expenses**

Expenses are recorded on an accrual basis in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the expense occurred.

h) **Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities. Due to their nature, financial instruments are carried at cost or amortized cost, less any provision on accounts receivable, which approximates their fair value.

i) **Use of Estimates and Measurement Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Items requiring the use of significant estimates are accrued liabilities.

Estimates are based on the best information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available. Measurement uncertainty exists in these financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates and the difference could be material.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2015

3. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

	2015 $	2014 $
Accounts payable	6,742	6,021
Accrued salaries and benefits	4,204	3,424
Accrued vacation and overtime	8,537	8,038
	19,483	17,483

4. Employee Benefits

a) Sick Leave

Employees of the Council are granted a base amount of 18 days of paid sick leave on April 1 of each fiscal year. Unused sick days may be accumulated to a maximum of 36 days. The use of accumulated sick days for sick leave compensation ceases on termination of employment and there is no obligation to settle these amounts with cash payments. A liability has not been calculated or recognized in these financial statements based on an analysis which indicated the liability was not significant.

b) Pension Benefits

Permanent employees of the Council participate in the Province of Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Pension Plan (the Plan) which is a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan. The Plan provides a pension on retirement based on two percent of the average salary for the highest three years times the number of years of pensionable service for service to December 31, 2013, and two percent of the career average salary indexed with cost-of-living adjustments for service after 2013. Indexing is subject to the funded level of the plan after December 31, 2016. The Plan is administered by the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Council's annual portion of contributions to the Plan of $11,859 (2014 - $11,442) was paid by the Province and not reflected in these financial statements. Any unfunded liability of the Plan is the responsibility of the Province and therefore no liability has been recognized in these financial statements. For additional information on the Plan, see the Province's consolidated financial statements.

5. Contractual Obligation

A photocopier is leased until January 15, 2020, with annual lease payments of $2,900 plus applicable taxes.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2015

6. Related Party Transactions

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2015 $	2014 $
Operating Grant	246,750	146,250
Other Grants	3,510	3,451
	250,260	149,701

The Council received a grant of $2,014 (2014 - $2,014) from another Crown corporation of the Province of Prince Edward Island which is included with program revenue.

Certain costs incurred by the Province of Prince Edward Island on behalf of the Council are not reflected in these financial statements. These costs include rental of office space, related office expenses, and certain employee benefits.

7. Financial Management

The Council's risk exposure, as a result of the financial instruments on its statement of financial position at March 31, 2015, is limited to liquidity risk. The Council's financial instruments are not subject to significant market or credit risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet all its cash outflow obligations as they come due. This risk is mitigated by monitoring the level of financial assets in relation to amounts due and implementing fiscal restraint when necessary.

8. Budgeted Figures

Budgeted figures have been provided for comparative purposes and were derived from estimates approved by the Council.

About the Cover Art

The Sovereign Uterus, 2014
Digital Painting
by Becka Viau

"For me the creation of art must communicate to a popular audience in order to stimulate conversations around current issues and experiences."

Becka Viau is a Canadian artist from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. She received her BFA (2008) and MFA (2013) from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and has exhibited in many galleries throughout the Maritimes and the United Kingdom. She was long listed for the Sobey Art Award in 2011 and 2014 and recently completed a three month creative/research artist residency in Newfoundland and Labrador. She has worked as a curator, educator, and coordinator of arts collectives and arts festivals. Much of her artistic activity engages with questions relating to the institutions, dissemination, and social networks of power, art, and culture.

Becka Viau's artwork *The Sovereign Uterus* was chosen for 2014–2015 after Becka represented PEI as a Bold Visionary at the history-making A Bold Vision event held in PEI in 2014. She created a poster of this artwork for a community conversation during International Women's Day activities. The artwork later came to be used as a popular icon of the struggle for reproductive justice in PEI and as the emblem of a powerful blog of PEI women's abortion experiences, thesovereignuterus.wordpress.com.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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